WEALTH MARKETS AND COMMERCE

Finance - Economics

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Friday, January 19, 1917.

Nature sets a lively pace for the statisticians employed by the Department of Agriculture at Washington. They scarcely finish the work of compiling estimates of the last season's farm production and computing the money value thereof before the new crop season is upon them and the work has to be done all over again.

Even now the cotton planters in the Southwest are beginning to take a lively interest in soil conditions preparatory to starting their activities in the fields. Within the next three or four weeks planting will be under full headway over a constantly widening area. Meantime the winter wheat will begin to awaken from its hibernal sleep, and by the time that crop has been cultivated and well started on its road to maturity the work of spring planting and seeding will be progressing rapidly northward.

True, all this will not happen overnight, but even in the Northwest, where zero temperatures prevail and snow is piled high over the wheat fields, the farmers, taking note of the lengthening hours of daylight, are aware that the time for polishing up the gangplough and making ready the seed bed for the coming season's crops will soon be upon them.

The statisticians therefore will not get much of a breathing spell. Soon they must be busy preparing estimates of new acreages and new yields, which will probably be more eagerly read the coming year than ever before, not only in this country but throughout Europe, owing to the acute world shortage of foodstuffs that is threatened before new crops are available.

While it is gratifying to learn that the products of American farms last year yielded the unprecedented sum of $13,450,000,000, the enthusiasm written into the report by the government officials does not fully justify itself in the mind of the reader when he comes to the paragraph stating that production last season "was comparatively low, but high prices sent the total values up."

And when further along he reads that consumers, of whom he is one, were on December 1 last paying about 55 per cent more for the principal farm products than they did the year before, he is not likely to feel any enthusiasm whatever. Record valuation based on larger production and lower prices would be a much more agreeable arrangement.

The statisticians are not to blame. They do their best to keep up with nature as she jumps from one stage of the crop season to another. Only it is to be hoped that the figures they compile a year from now will tell a somewhat different story than those just published.

No one in this country is really oppressed with taxation. Compared with the heavy levies in many other countries the burden borne by the American people is light enough, and might be made much greater without working hardship. It is only the inequalities in the distribution of the imposts which give rise to discontent. Citizenship entails obligations as well as privileges, and so far as is practicable every one should be made to contribute toward the government's expenses. The best way of bringing that about, and at the same time perhaps the most effective way that could be devised of increasing tax revenues, would be to democratize the income tax by lowering the exemption limit. It has been estimated by one authority that a tax of 1 per cent on all incomes above $1,000 would yield at least $200,000,000, without any surtax at all. As it is, the surtax yields nearly twice as much as the normal tax. Undoubtedly it is proper that the man of wealth should contribute a larger share of his revenues than the man with a moderate income, but it is contrary to sound principles of government that the latter should escape altogether. Unfortunately those responsible for our tax legislation continue to disregard these patent facts, and, like its predecessors, the Administration's latest tax programme takes the easiest way. The proposal to partially iron out the inequalities by reducing the income tax exemptions to $2,000 and $3,000 is sidetracked. Instead, the inequalities are widened.

Among other things, the proposal calls for an increase in the inheritance tax and an "excess profits" tax to be imposed upon corporation and copartnership profits where these are more than 8 per cent. The latter would hardly be unduly burdensome to business, and if all those who should do so were contributing a fair share to the tax revenues objections to the proposal would carry little weight. Since that is not the case, however, there is very good ground for objection, for in all probability the tax would indirectly fall for the most part upon those who are already paying the larger share of the personal income tax.

Money and Credit

Money on call was in generous supply at the New York Stock Exchange yesterday and the ruling rate held unchanged at 2 per cent. The closing rate was 1¾ per cent.

An easy tone prevailed in the market for time funds on brokers' Stock Exchange collateral, with rather a restricted demand. The bulk of the business transacted was in industrial loans. Rates showed no important changes from the preceding day.

Ruling rates on money yesterday, compared with a year ago, were as follows:

	Yesterday.	Year ago
Call money....	2%	1¾%
Time money (mixed collateral):		
60 days.....	2¾@3 %	2½@2¾%
90 days.....	2¾@3 %	2¾%
4 months....	3 @3¼%	2¾@3 %
5 to 6 mos..	3 @3¼%	2¾@3 %

Commercial Paper.—The commercial paper market still rules easy and dull. A limited volume of the best paper is moving at 3½ per cent, with occasional sales of particularly attractive shorter maturities at 3¼ per cent.

Official rates of discount at each of the twelve Federal districts are as follows:

	—Maturity in days.—			
	10d.	30d.	60d.	90d.
Boston	3	4	4	4
Philadelphia	*3½	4	4	4
New York	4	4	4	4
Cleveland	3½	4	4½	4½
Richmond	4	4	4	4
Atlanta	4	4	4½	4½
Chicago	3½	4	4	4½
St. Louis	3	4	4	4
Minneapolis	4	4	4	4½
Kansas City	4	4½	4½	4½
Dallas	4	4	4	4
San Francisco	3	3½	4	4½

*15-day paper.

Bank Clearings.—The day's clearings at New York and other cities:

	Exchanges.	Balances.
New York	$529,921,548	$27,048,932
Baltimore	6,759,703	806,812
Boston	36,743,829	5,490,354
Chicago	78,349,735	3,692,381
Philadelphia	54,037,687	3,743,014
St. Louis	21,472,597	3,711,698

Sub-Treasury.—New York banks gained from Sub-Treasury $1,547,000.

Silver.—Bars in London, 36⅞ pence; New York, 75⅝ cents; Mexican dollars, 58⅜ cents.

Bank Clearings.—Clearing House transactions at the principal cities this week amounted to $5,381,055,357, according to the estimate of R. G. Dun & Co., an increase of 35.6 per cent over the corresponding week of 1916. New York City clearings were 34.5 per cent more than a year ago, and 111.2 per cent larger than in the corresponding week of 1915.

Week's Money Currents.—Reported movements of currency this week indicate a gain in cash by the banks of about $30,000,000. There was a continuation of the heavy inflow from the interior, both direct and through the Federal Reserve banks. The net gain on operations with the interior was approximately $11,000,000. The week's gold exports totalled $1,450,000, $1,160,000 of which went to South America, $240,000 to Spain and $50,000 to Cuba.

Bank of Germany.—Berlin (via London), Jan. 19.—The statement of the Imperial Bank of Germany, issued January 15, shows the following changes, in marks:

Total coin and bullion..	Inc.	2,134,000
Gold	Inc.	1,359,000
Treasury notes	Dec.	1,430,000
Notes of other banks..	Inc.	120,000
Bills discounted	Dec.	133,163,000
Advances	Inc.	401,000
Investments	Inc.	2,078,000
Other securities	Inc.	103,634,000
Notes in circulation....	Dec.	259,037,000
Deposits	Inc.	148,427,000
Other liabilities	Inc.	89,384,000

Total gold holdings, 2,522,260,000 marks.

Gold Movement.—Gold coin to the amount of $760,000 was withdrawn at the Sub-Treasury for shipment to South America. Bankers also withdrew $20,000 for export to Spain.

The Dollar in Foreign Exchange

Mexico City, Jan. 19.—The official rate of exchange for American money will continue to be 1 peso 80 centavos for each dollar, or a discount of 10 per cent on American money, according to a ruling of the treasury to-day.

New low record prices were made again yesterday by Russian and Italian exchange. Rubles fell to 28.80 cents and lire to a rate of 7.02 to the dollar. The rest of the market was dull and unchanged.

Closing rates yesterday, compared with a week ago, were as follows:

	Yesterday.	Week ago.
Sterling, demand	4.75 11/16	4.75 11/16
Sterling, sixty days	4.72	4.72
Sterling, cables	4.76 7/16	4.76 7/16
Sterling, ninety days	4.70	4.70
Francs, demand	5.84⅜	5.84¼
Francs, cables	5.83⅜	5.83⅜
Guilders, checks	40 11/16	40 11/16
Guilders, cables	40⅞	40⅞
Reichsmarks, checks	67⅜	69⅝
Reichsmarks, cables	67½	69¾
Lire, checks	7.02¾	6.92
Lire, cables	7.01¾	6.92
Swiss, checks	5.02¼	5.03
Swiss, cables	5.01¼	5.02
Austrian, kronen, ch'ks.	10.90	11.45
Stockholm, kr., checks	29.55	29.35
Copenhagen, kr., ch'ks.	27.55	27.30
Pesetas, checks	21.20	21.20
Pesos (Argentina)	99½	99
Rubles, checks	28.80	29.30

Below is given the current exchange value of foreign money in dollars and cents, together with the intrinsic gold parity, as calculated by the United States Mint:

	Current exchange value.	Intrinsic value.
Pounds, sterling	$4.75 11/16	$4.86⅝
Francs	0.17.1	0.19.3
Guilders	0.40 11/16	0.40.2
Marks	0.16.8	0.23.8
Rubles	0.28.80	0.51.2
Lire, checks	0.14.2	0.19.3
Crowns (Denmark)	0.27.55	0.26.8
Crowns (Sweden)	0.29.55	0.26.8
Pesos (Argentina)	0.99	0.96.4

The above rates express the cost of foreign money in terms of the American dollar. You buy an English pound sterling for $4.75 11/16; the intrinsic parity is $4.86⅝ per pound. Thus, you say either that pounds are at a discount or that dollars are at a premium, which is owing to the fact that in England the demand for dollars with which to settle accounts in this country is greater than the demand in this country for pounds with which to settle accounts in England.

BETHLEHEM IN SLUMP TO 396

Heavy Selling of Shares Follows Report of Bond Issue

Bethlehem Steel common, Wall Street's premier war stock, sold yesterday at 396, the lowest price touched since October, 1915, when it passed that figure in the first stage of its meteoric flight to 700. On unusual activity the shares of the Schwab concern broke to the price named, where they showed a loss of 39 points. Shortly before the close they rallied to 420, and that was the final quotation—a net loss of 15 points.

The decline was accompanied by numerous rumors for which no confirmation was forthcoming from the offices of the corporation. It was reported, for one thing, that the directors were considering a new bond issue for upward of $50,000,000 to cover a part of the expense of new construction. This rumor has been in circulation for several days, and has been given credence in responsible quarters.

Another report which brought no response from officials of the company said that the Bethlehem Corporation had been held up in the matter of payments by the British government for munitions for the account of Russia, the amount thus far being said to aggregate in the neighborhood of $10,000,000. It was further rumored that two representatives of the British government are en route to this country to adjust the differences now existing. Bethlehem's original contract with the Russian government was reported to have involved the manufacture of shells worth $70,000,000. A meeting of the board of directors is scheduled for next Tuesday.

Since the first of the year Bethlehem common has declined 114 points. The high record of 700 was made on the big rise of last November. Dealings in the stock yesterday amounted to 7,500 shares, whereas the average trading of recent days has kept well under 1,000 shares, and frequently there has been no trading at all.

SHIPBUILDERS MAKE RECORD

403 Steel Vessels Under Construction in American Yards on January 1

Washington, Jan. 19.—The largest tonnage of steel merchant vessels in the history of American shipbuilding was under construction or contracted for in private shipyards on January 1.

The Department of Commerce announced to-night that in all there are 403 vessels, aggregating 1,495,601 gross tons. They include a number of foreign account.

DEPARTMENT STORE TAX PROPOSED IN FRANCE

The committee on taxation of the French Senate has approved a provision in the new tax law now being elaborated, whereby a tax will be imposed upon large department stores. The proposed tax is as follows: One per cent on department stores whose business is from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 francs ($386,000 to $965,000); 2 per cent on those whose business amounts to 5,000,000 to 50,000,000 francs ($965,000 to $9,650,000); 3 per cent on those whose business is between 50,000,000 and 100,000,000 francs ($9,650,000 and $19,300,000); 4 per cent on those whose business is between 100,000,000 and 200,000,000 francs ($19,300,000 and $38,600,000); and 5 per cent upon those whose business exceeds 200,000,000 francs ($38,600,000).

WAR LOAN DRAG ON THE LONDON STOCK MARKET

Money and Credit Facilities Are Under Government Control

By FRANCIS W. HIRST

[By Cable to The Tribune]

London, Jan. 19.—After four months of pessimism and despondency in stock exchange circles, attributed partly to the issue of 6 per cent exchequer bonds, which resulted in a great slump in the demand for securities of lower yield, a wave of optimism, accompanied by firmer prices, set in about Christmas. Now the tide is ebbing again under the pressure of the new loan and the attendant liquidation.

The reduction in the Bank of England's discount rate, which had been expected last week, came yesterday as a surprise packet. The balance sheets of the banks at the end of the year are now being published. They are wonderfully satisfactory, with the London City and Midland making the best showing. Nevertheless Martin Holland has been warning credit dealers that more difficult times are ahead. Speaking of the officers of the Union Discount Company yesterday he said: "The freedom of the London money market has vanished. It is now, like most industries to-day, rapidly becoming a state controlled establishment, and the trade bills, for the handling of which your company was formed, have been temporarily replaced by the safe remunerative Treasury bill." Bankers hope that the suspension of Treasury bill issues will be of short duration.

Japanese Bonds Active

There has been great activity in Japanese bonds. Agents of that government have been buying them freely in large blocks. Chilean loans were also firm under the stimulus afforded by the punctual sinking fund purchases. Brazilian and Russian stocks were rather dull, but the market for Chinese issues was better. Dealers say that Chinese customs and salt revenues are expanding, while the absence of bad political news from China adds to the strength of these issues.

Last year I suggested to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, without result, that a loan to assist exchange might be made in India. Bonar Law has, however, taken this step, and if the loan is properly worked by the banks in India it should give substantial results, besides weaning the Indian Nabobs from the notion that gold, silver and precious stones constitute the only desirable forms of investment. This instruction is all the more necessary, because after the war India will need more capital than we can hope to supply.

The announcement of the new British loan in America caused no surprise, and its success is assumed to be certain.

Relevant Information

Columbia Gas and Electric.—The stock of the Columbia Gas and Electric Company advanced 2⅝ points to 46⅝ yesterday, following the publication of the report for December and the full year of 1916. The statement showed December gross of $1,011,076, an increase of 17.4 per cent over the corresponding month of 1915, while net operating earnings of $403,125 represented a gain over December, 1915, of 4.5 per cent. For the full twelve months of 1916 gross earnings totalled $9,056,761, an increase of 12.5 per cent, while net operating earnings amounted to $4,432,685, an increase of 13.6. The company's surplus at the end of the year of $1,157,016 showed an increase of $776,377, or 203 per cent over the preceding year.

Cluett-Peabody.—Cluett, Peabody & Co. reported yesterday net income for 1916 of $2,811,824, compared with $2,073,557 in 1915, and $1,491,148 in 1914. Surplus from the year's operations amounted to $1,421,824, against $821,224 in 1915. Net, after deducting $490,000 for the preferred, is equivalent to $12.90 a share on the $18,000,000 outstanding common stock. F. F. Peabody, chairman of the company, said in his report to the stockholders: "Bookings of collars, shirts and handkerchiefs for next spring's delivery show a substantial increase. They promise continued growth in our sales, but we must not overlook the fact that we are facing high costs for all kinds of materials. The Canadian plant has fulfilled our expectations of better results and the outlook for 1917 is promising. The new six-story fireproof building referred to in our report of 1915 was enlarged to eight stories and has been completed. During the present year we expect to erect the second unit in our eight-story modern manufacturing plant."

United States Steel.—Dealings in United States Steel common yesterday aggregated a turnover of 108,000 shares, with the stock closing at 114½, off ¾. The directors meet the last Tuesday of this month, when dividend action will be taken and the quarterly report issued. So far as earnings are concerned, it is now estimated by those whose figures have in the past been rather close to the actual showing that a total of $100,000,000 to $105,000,000 will be reported for the closing three months of 1916. Net earnings in the third quarter of 1916 totalled $85,817,000.

A New England View.—Boston, Jan. 19.—The First National Bank of Boston in its New England letter on general conditions says:

"Although peace notes and speeches continue, it is not so much the expectation of an early termination of the war which is restricting commitments to reasonable needs as the likelihood of a series of trade fluctuations due to unexpected war measures and little understood diplomatic negotiations. In all this it is well to bear in mind the immense volume of orders in process for goods desired at the earliest moment. The Steel Corporation's December unfilled tonnage increase of 500,000 tons is very significant at this juncture and is typical of a great variety of products. The point is that the business already contracted for may be likened to a huge storage battery to tide over a lack of purchasing during a temporary slackening in activity. Speaking generally, manufacturers, jobbers and retailers are going ahead steadily, but refraining from speculation in raw materials and goods, supplying themselves for their normal nearby requirements only. While business men recognize the hazards of the present situation, more and more opinion is growing that, despite its frightfulness, the war is, after all, a normal war, and that, as in the past, active business is likely to continue both during and for several years after its termination."

STORAGE PENALTIES ON EXPORT GRAIN REJECTED

Railroads Proposed High Charges at Atlantic Ports After Sixty Days

Washington, Jan. 19.—Proposals by the railroads to double and quadruple storage charges on export grain at elevators at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Newport News and other Atlantic ports where such grain is held longer than sixty days, were disapproved to-day by the Interstate Commerce Commission, as were new charges for the storage of export grain in cars awaiting unloading at Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The proposals, made by the trunk line railroads, were designed as a measure to relieve congestion at Atlantic ports and to insure, by the enforcement of penalties, a freer flow of grain through the elevators. They were opposed by the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce, the Commercial Exchange of Philadelphia and other similar organizations. A considerable proportion of the millions of bushels of grain shipped to Atlantic ports for export to the warring nations of Europe would have been affected.

Another intention of the railroads was to prevent the premature shipment of grain to the seaboard without export contracts or prior to making arrangements for its ocean transportation. The scarcity of ships is said to have resulted in choking the elevators with grain which could not be moved without long delay.

A large number of cars also have been withdrawn from traffic because of the congestion at the elevators, so augmenting the general car shortage.

In its decision, the commission holds that the objects sought by the railroads should be attained by other methods than the one proposed, which would place heavy penalties upon the traffic.

A war committee and a public economy committee are to be created in Portugal. The first named will consist of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, and the second of the Ministers of Marine, Labor and Public Works.

FRENCH CONCERN GETS A CREDIT OF $15,000,000

Collateral Behind New Loan to Britain Amounts to $300,000,000

Schneider & Co., of France, a concern whose plants have been turned over to the manufacture of munitions for the French government, has secured a fourth credit, of $15,000,000, in this country. It has been arranged through a group of financial institutions headed by William P. Bonbright & Co.

The new credit, like the previous ones, will take the form of ninety-day drafts drawn by French banks on American banks to the credit of Schneider & Co. They will carry the right to three renewals, thus making the life of the loan one year, if so desired. As the bills arising from the acceptance of the drafts on this side are based directly on export transactions no opposition is expected from the Federal Reserve Board.

British Loan Collateral

The offering price for the new $250,000,000 5½ per cent loan to Great Britain was announced yesterday by J. P. Morgan & Co. as being 99.52 and interest for the one-year notes and 99.07 and interest for the two-year notes, to yield 6 per cent on both issues.

There will be deposited behind the loan a wide variety of securities having a value of at least $300,000,000 calculated on the basis of prevailing market prices and exchange rates. This collateral will be composed of two groups, valued at $150,000,000 each. The first consists of securities of American municipalities and corporations, including the Canadian Pacific Railway and obligations of the Canadian government, Newfoundland and Canadian provincial and municipal securities. The value of the American and Canadian Pacific Railway securities alone is in excess of $100,000,000.

In the second group are the obligations of Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Australia, Egypt, Japan, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa; Grand Trunk Railway of Canada obligations and securities of Argentine railways; approximately $25,000,000 in bonds and other obligations of dividend paying British railway companies.

Both the principal and interest of the notes and of the twenty-year bonds into which they are convertible are to be payable without deduction for any British taxes, and are to be payable either in New York in United States gold coin or in London at the fixed rate of exchange of $4.865 to the pound sterling.

Issue To Be Listed

Provision is made for maintaining the value of the collateral at a value of at least 120 per cent of the loan. The British government retains the right, as in previous collateral loans, to sell any of the pledged securities, in which event the proceeds will be used to reduce the amount of the notes outstanding.

The syndicate offering the notes, country-wide in its membership, includes practically the same institutions that participated in the last $300,000,000 British offering in this market.

On the curb market yesterday the one-year notes were quoted "when issued" at 99⅝ bid and 99⅝ asked. The two-year notes were quoted at 98⅞ bid and 99⅛ asked. It is expected that steps will be taken to list both maturities on the Stock Exchange in the near future.

U. S. Treasury Finances

Washington, Jan. 19.—The condition of the United States Treasury at the close of business to-day was: Net balance in general fund, $94,382,419; total ordinary receipts, $1,996,439; total ordinary payments, $2,130,724.

The deficit this fiscal year is $140,765,307, against a deficit of $58,983,949 last year, exclusive of Panama Canal and public debt transactions.

Significant Relations

Money and Prices:

	Now		A year ago
Stock of money gold in the country..	$2,864,841,000		$2,312,444,000
	Nov. 17, 1916		Nearest period previous year.
Loans of all national banks	$6,345,000,000		$7,233,929,000
Reserves:			
Cash held in their own vaults	$788,000,000		$846,775,000
On deposit with Fed. Res. banks	649,000,000		366,185,000
Total reserve (i. e., cash in national bank vaults and on deposit with Federal Reserve banks)	$1,437,000,000		$1,212,960,000
Ratio of this total reserve to gross deposit liabilities of national banks	11.5%		11.9%
	Last week.		A year ago.
Loans of Federal Reserve banks	$140,334,000		$55,576,000
Their liability for notes, net	13,558,000		11,948,000
Their gold reserve against deposits and circulation	71.5%		79.1%
	Yesterday.	The day before.	A year ago.
Average price of 15 railroad stocks..	118.07	118.54	119.20
Average price of 12 industrial stocks.	98.89	99.30	94.32
	Last week.	The w'k before.	A year ago.
Food cost of living (Annalist index number)	209.84	208.88	153.81

Production:

	January 1.	December 1.	A year ago.
Unfilled U. S. Steel orders, tons	11,547,286	11,058,542	7,806,220
	The 1916 yield.		Previous year's crop.
Wheat crop, bushels	639,886,000		1,012,000,000
Corn crop, bushels	2,593,241,000		3,055,000,000
Cotton crop, bales	11,511,000		11,191,820

Distribution:

	January.	December.	A year ago.
Net shortage of freight cars	59,892	107,778	—
Net surplus of freight cars	—	—	47,081
	—Increase or	decrease from	last year.—
	Fourth week of Dec. (22 roads).	Month of November (173 roads).	July 1 to Nov. 30 (173 roads).
Gross railroad earnings	+4.6%	+7.6%	+13.5%
	—Increase or	decrease from	last year.—
	Last week.	The week before.	Year to date.
Bank clearings	+30.5%	—1.5%	+12.5%

News Digest

Foreign

London Markets.—London, Jan. 19.—The artificial character of the bank rate, as far as the money market is concerned, is indicated by the fact that the banks have not reduced deposit rates with the lower minimum.

Money was plentiful and discount rates were easy to-day. The stock market was inactive but cheerful. There was a moderate rise in the old 3½ per cent war loan, but further realizing in order to invest in the new loan occurred in standard securities. Home rails improved in anticipation of better dividends. Rumanian oil and Russian issues were firmer on the war news and Kaffirs had a good tone. American securities after adjustment to the higher parity varied but little and closed quiet.

Money, 3½ per cent; discount rates, short and three months' bills, 5 per cent; gold premium at Lisbon, 80.

Paris Bourse.—Paris, Jan. 19.—Trading was quiet on the Bourse to-day. Three per cent rentes, 62 francs 40 centimes for cash; exchange on London, 27 francs 81½ centimes; 5 per cent loan, 88 francs 55 centimes.

New York

Irregular Tendencies in Trade.—R. G. Dun & Co., in their weekly review, say:

Irregular tendencies again appear in trade and industry, with business rising in some channels and falling in others, and with wholesome conservatism still the outstanding and most reassuring feature. With the requirements of many large concerns covered far ahead, the necessity of urgent purchasing is obviously less apparent and signs multiply of the restricting influence of high prices, some interests holding off because of the knowledge that reaction is inevitable, though as yet there is little evidence of yielding. Even with many buyers making future commitments with increased caution, new demands bulk heavy in the aggregate, and it remains the fact that in some instances profitable contracts are being rejected, either through the inability or disinclination of manufacturers to engage themselves further. Owing to adverse working conditions, not a few producers find it difficult to make substantial progress in reducing accumulated orders, and the transportation congestion still causes much complaint of tardy deliveries of materials and merchandise, though some relief from the car shortage is indicated. With the change to lower temperatures in sections where the weather was unseasonable, retail trade has responded promptly and the large distribution to consumers throughout the country seems remarkable when the element of the high costs is considered. Both bank clearings and railroad earnings clearly show that general business is sustained in exceptional volume, while the noteworthy ease in money is an important factor making for satisfactory mercantile collections.

Elections

Hudson Trust.—Dr. Victor A. Rendon yesterday was elected a director and Richard A. Purdy was made a vice-president and secretary.

William N. Enstrom has been appointed assistant cashier of the Irving National Bank. He has been succeeded as manager of the foreign department by James Heckscher.

Other Cities

Boston Coppers.—Boston, Jan. 19.—Little activity was shown in the trading in copper shares on the local exchange to-day. Opening prices were generally above yesterday's close, but yielded slightly later. The close was generally firm. Copper Range, 67; Oceola, 87; Old Dominion, 65.

Southern Railway Mortgage Approved.—Richmond, Va., Jan. 19.—Stockholders of the Southern Railway, in session here to-day, approved the new general mortgage plan providing for an issue of bonds limited to $500,000,000. The plan was proposed at the general meeting of the stockholders held January 5, was referred to the directors and to-day the board's report was ratified.

Corporation Returns

Columbia Gas and Electric

	1916.	1915.
December gross	$1,011,077	$861,182
Net after taxes	403,126	422,284
Surplus after charges..	388,757	135,836

Cluett, Peabody & Co.—Report for the year ended December 31, 1916, shows a net income, after deducting $490,000 for preferred stock dividends, equal to $12.90 a share on the $18,000,000 common shares. The condensed report compares as follows:

	1916.	1915.
Net income	$2,811,824	$2,073,557
Dividends	1,390,000	1,252,333
Surplus	1,421,824	821,224
Previous surplus	1,675,751	1,574,527
Total surplus	4,117,280	2,395,751

FINANCIAL MEETINGS

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS.

To the stockholders of

THE EQUITABLE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW YORK:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Meeting of the Stockholders of The Equitable Trust Company of New York is, by authority and direction of the Board of Trustees of the said Company, hereby called to be held at the principal office of the said Company, at No. 37 Wall Street, in the Borough of Manhattan, in the City of New York, on the 22nd day of January, 1917, at 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon. The object of the said meeting is

(a) To authorize an increase of the capital stock of the Company from $3,000,000, consisting of thirty thousand shares of the par value of $100 each, to $6,000,000, consisting of sixty thousand shares of the par value of $100 each, being an increase of $3,000,000, consisting of thirty thousand shares of the par value of $100 each;

(b) To authorize the offering of such increased stock, to wit, $3,000,000, for subscription at the rate of $150 for each $100 par value thereof, pro rata in proportion to their several holdings, to the stockholders of the Company of record at the close of business on a day to be fixed by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Company, such subscriptions to be made on or before such date and under such regulations and provisions as shall be determined by said Executive Committee, notice of the time and manner of making such subscriptions to be given by the Secretary of the Company to each stockholder of record on the day so fixed by said Executive Committee, by mailing a copy of such notice to each stockholder at his last known post-office address, at least thirty (30) days before the termination of the period during which such subscriptions can be made, and to authorize the sale by or under the direction of the said Executive Committee of all shares of such increased stock not so taken and paid for to such persons, at such times and in such manner, at such prices as said Executive Committee shall determine, such prices, however, to be not less than the market value of the said shares as the said market value shall be determined by said Executive Committee (its judgment in this regard to be final) and not less than $150 per share;

(c) To take such other action as may properly come before the proposed meeting in relation to the proposed increase of said capital stock and the disposition thereof.

Dated, New York, January 5th, 1917.

ALVIN W. KRECH, President of The Equitable Trust Company of New York.

RICHARD R. HUNTER, Secretary of The Equitable Trust Company of New York.